Disinvestment of shares of GAIL

164. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to disinvest the shares of GAIL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have changed the share price of GAIL; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) 135 million Government held shares of GAIL have been disinvested in GDR market at a price of Rs. 70 per share in November, 1999.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Collection of Revenue Receipts

165. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only about 35% of the budgeted target of revenue receipts have been collected during the first six months of the financial year 1999-2000;

(b) whether any exercise has been made to find out the reasons for this huge backlog of 65 per cent between the budgeted figure and the actual receipts; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps Government are proposing to take to meet the target in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The revenue receipts comprise of tax revenues and non-tax revenues. The

following table gives the comparative position of revenue receipts during the first 6 months of the current year as compared to the corresponding period last year.

	During April	September	Percentage	of B.E.
	1998	1999	1998-99	1999-
Tax Revenue	Rs. 42,411 crore	Rs. 47,427 crore	36.3%	35.8%
Non-Tax	Rs. 16,671 crore	Rs. 21,036 crore	36.9%	41.7%

(c) The collection of revenue receipts is an ongoing process and due efforts are on for meeting the budget target.

Plan for Downsizing Government

166. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the President's Address to Parliament made on 25th October, 99 the need for downsizing the Government and reducing the Government expenditure as a part of second generation of economic reform was stressed;

(b) if so, whether Government have since formulated any plan in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when necessary steps in this regard would be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) In his address to the Parliament made on 25th October, 1999, the President of India mentioned, *inter-alia,* that an Expenditure Commission, which would be set up shortly will also lay down the road map for downsizing of Government. Any action in this behalf will, therefor, be taken as and when recommendations of the Commission are made.

(c) The need for containing non-plan administrative expenditure has been a continuous process and appropriate measures are taken from time to time in this regard. Guidelines on expenditure